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life, for this session of congress is their last unless changing fortunes return them.

Senators Root of New York, Burton of Ohio, Perkins of California, Bristow of Kansas, Crawford of South Dakota, Stephen of Wisconsin—all Republicans—and Thornton of Louisiana and White of Alabama Democrats, will go out of office at the end of the session.

In the house Representatives Underwood of Alabama, Hardwick of Georgia and Bresford of Louisiana are serving their last terms before their elevation to the senate of the next congress.

Among prominent house Democ-

rats retiring are A. Mitchell Palmer or Pennsylvania a member of the ways and means committee; Stanley E. Bowles of Ohio, who will return the seat he took from former Representative Nicholas Longworth; Robert J. Bolshier, of Ohio; John A. Clancy, of New York; Robert E. Denderer of Pennsylvania; Jeremiah Donavan of Connecticut; Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Alabama; Henry M. Goldfogel, of New York; Charles A. Korbly, of Indiana; Robert E. Lee of Pennsylvania; George Nease, of Kansas; Frank T. O'Hair, of Illinois, who will yield back the seat he took from former Speaker Joseph G. Cannon; John J. Mitchell, of Massachusetts, a member of the ways and means committee; Edward W. Townsend of New Jersey, and many others.

Of the Progressive organization in the house members who will be re-tired include the party leader, Victor Mardock, of Kansas; M. Clyde Kelly, W. J. Bullock and Henry W. Temple, all of Pennsylvania; William J. McDonald of Michigan and William H. Hinshaw, of Illinois.

Leaders on all sides look forward to interesting developments over the naval and the army appropriation bills because of agitation resulting from the European war. Representative Augustus P. Gardner of Massachusetts has a resolution directing congressional investigation into the military preparedness of the United States for war.

COTTON RELIEF LEGISLATION HAS RIGHT OF WAY

The first calendar business before the house today was the cotton relief legislation urged by Representative Henry of Texas and others, who also presented adjournment of the last session by insisting on it. The

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CONVENTION TO DECIDE ON FUTURE OF STRIKE

Gathering of United Mine Workers Makes Little Progress in Opening Session at Denver Today.

WELBORN IN SHARP CLASH WITH WALSH

Chief of Mine Operators Refuses to Give Name of Author of Operator's Pamphlet and Force May Follow.

Denver, Dec. 7.—Whether the Colorado coal strike shall be continued or called off is the chief question to come before the annual convention of District No. 12, United Mine Workers of America, which met here today.

Because of the late arrival of a number of the delegates no session was held during the morning. The preliminary program, planned for the afternoon session, included the appointment of committees and an address by "Mother" Mary Jones.

WELBORN IN SHARP CLASH WITH WEST

Denver, Dec. 7.—J. F. Welborn, president of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co., clashed with Chairman Walsh of the federal industrial relations commission today over the right claimed by the coal operator to withhold the name of the man who wrote *Puerto Concerning the Struggle in Colorado for Industrial Freedom*.

Mr. Welborn insisted upon assuming full responsibility for the pamphlet, said he had given his word that the author's identity would not be disclosed, and finally asked for time to consult counsel as to the right of the commission to force him to give the information demanded.

The writer was engaged for the work on the promise that his name would not be used in connection with it, said Mr. Welborn, who had been called to the stand to resume his testimony in the Colorado coal miners strike investigation.

My word is given upon it and I think the writer has some rights in the matter.

"Without going into the reason for the commission's request," said Mr. Walsh, "that is no proper reason, so far as the law is concerned, for not saving the information."

"He was not responsible except for the detailed execution," protested Mr. Welborn, "and more than a stenographer to whom I dictate a letter."

"If you decline to give the name the commission will, of course, take such action as it seems best," warned Walsh.

"I do not decline," replied Welborn, "but I ask the right of consulting counsel. I consider this a very serious matter."

Previously Mr. Welborn said he had never heard, until Mr. Walsh read it to him, the statute of 1908 which forbids coal company employees from acting as judges of election in "closed" camps.

Commissioner Weinstein took up Mr. Welborn's last report to the stockholders of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. "What proof is there for the statement that strikers have hidden their arms and ammunition instead of turning them over to the federal troops?" he asked.

"It was an open secret in the district," replied Welborn.

The witness was asked concerning the statement in the report that a strike leader had stated that the strikers were preparing to attack the militia upon the withdrawal of the federal troops, and that 4,000 men were ready to come in from another state.

"What leader do you refer to?" asked Mr. Weinstein.

Mr. Welborn named William Duane.

The witness said that if the strike

should be called off today the strikers could not be employed because the mines were filled. He declared that the strike was not four months ago. If the federal troops had been taken out and the militia sent in he looked for a renewal of violence unless the disarming of the strikers was completed.

Commissioner Garrison asked why, if conditions in non-union mines were so much better than in unionized properties, union men insisted upon unionizing in Colorado.

"That is not a fact," said Mr. Welborn. "They usually tear up their cards."

Mr. Welborn said the most friendly relations existed between the strikers and the state militia until the government allowed strike breakers to come into the state from Pennsylvania and the militia prevented the strikers from attacking these men.

The strike breakers had a legal right to enter the state, he said, adding that it was not a question of ethics but of what was legally right.

"In your statement to stockholders you said a condition of anarchy existed in the southern field. Other witnesses here say the only law there was the law of the companies. What is the difference?" asked Garrison.

"The difference was that one statement was a falsehood."

"How shall we determine the credibility of a witness?" Garrison persisted.

"If the common knowledge that the miners purchased arms was

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FIRST WATER DECREES HAVE PRIOR RIGHTS SAYS COLORADO COURT

Denver, Colo., Dec. 7.—Holders of first water decrees are entitled to water for irrigation at any time of the year they need it.

This is the substance of a decision by the state supreme court today in the case of Chas. W. Comstock, state engineer, versus the Larimer and Weld Reservoir company.

About five years ago the company brought suit against Comstock and holders of first decrees asking the court to establish an irrigation season under which arrangements could be made.



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